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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15584 201927Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 (ISO) W
----------050398 210420Z /63
R 201534Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9610
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR LE IS EG
SUBJ: REACTION TO SOUTH LEBANON

1. CAIRO PRESS PAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY SUBDUED ON RENEWED FIGHTING IN SOUTH LEBANON. ALL PAPERS SEPTEMBER 20 REPORTED PROMINENTLY WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF FIGHTING AND STATEMENT OF ARAFAT THAT SITUATION "MOST PRECARIOUS" AND PALESTINIAN FORCES "BADLY OUTGUNNED BY I RAELI USE OF 175 MM ARTILLERY." ARAFAT EXPECTS ESCALATION OF FIGHTING IN VIEW ISRAELI AIM OF TAKING OVER LITANI RIVER WATERS.

2. AHRAM EDITORIAL CRITICAL OF LEBANON FOR HAVING PREVENTED SOUTH LEBANON BEING DISCUSSED AT RECENT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING. AHRAM DEPLORES DIVERSION FROM ARAB POLITICAL EFFORT IN INTER-NATIONAL FORA AND PUTS BLAME SQUARELY ON ISRAEL AND"TREACHEROUS ISOLATIONIST FORCES" FOR EXPLOITING SITUATION TO DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONTACT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 15584 201927Z

WASHINGTON AND TO TORPEDO SHTURA AGREEMENT. DANGER OF SITUA-TION GETTING OUT OF CONTROL VERY REAL AND NEEDS UNIFIED ARAB EFFORT TO STOP IT, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED.

3. GOE PERM REP TO ARAB LEAGUE TOLD POLCOU
JS SEPT 19 THAT IN
HIS VIEW ISRAENIS HAD NO INTENTION OF PERMITTING SHTURA AGREE-

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MENT TO BE FULLLY IMPLEMENTED FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT ISRAELIS WANT TO KEEP SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON FLUID, THUS GIVING THEM "LEBANESE CARD" THAT CAN DPHHLAYED WHENEVER THEIR INTERESTS DAKTATE. HE SEES PURPOSE OF CURRRENT FIGHTING TO DIVERT ATTEN-TION FROM WASHINGTON TALKS AND PUT FURTHER OBSTACLES IN WAY OF U.S.-PLO DIALOGUE. MEMBER FOREIGN MINISTER'S CABINET TOLD POLCOUNS SEPT 20 THAT SITUATION "VERY SERIOUS" IN SOUTH LEBANON AS EVIDENCED BY ARAFAT'S MESSAGE TO ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE.

4. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS WRINGING EWEIR HANDYIIN DISMAY OVER SUCCESS OF WHAT THEY VIEW AS TRANSPARENT ISRAELI TACTIC OF OBSTRUCTING WIDER PEACE EFFORTS BY PREVENTING SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON. THERE IS NO INDICATION THEY HAVE PLAN TO DEAL WITH SITUATION OTHER THAN ASK WHAT U.S. IS GOING TO DO ABOUT IT. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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